

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, SA
SUBJECT: HOSPITAL EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE KINGDOM

1. ONE OF THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR U.S. EXPORTERS AND CONTRACTORS IN THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM FUTURE IN SAUDI ARABIA INVOLVES HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND THE SUBSEQUENT SUPPLYING OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES. ACCORDING TO THE FIVE YEAR PLAN, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS PROJECTED EXPENDITURES OF NEARLY \$5 BILLION FOR PROCUREMENT AND PROJECTS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF CURRENT AND NEW GENERAL HOSPITALS, SPECIALIZED HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES, HEALTH CENTERS, DISTRICT DISPENSARIES (POLYCLINICS), SPECIALIZED FACILITIES (PROVIDING SERVICES SUCH AS BILHARZIA AND MALARIA CONTROL, CHEST DISEASE CLINICS, AND MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH CENTERS), SUPPORT SERVICES, HEALTH OFFICES AND MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES.

2. THE PROGRAM IS ADVANCING RAPIDLY. A RECENT REPORT IN THE NEWSPAPERS NOTED THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED (ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIAL) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 69 NEW HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM. THESE HOSPITALS WOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 7,300 BEDS. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY HAS EARMARKED FUNDS FOR 26 HOSPITALS FOR MATERNITY, PEDIATRICS, CHEST AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS, ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE 3,900 BEDS. THE MINISTRY ALSO INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

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3. SEVERAL U.S. FIRMS ARE ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN

NUMEROUS HOSPITAL PROJECTS (NOTABLY WHITTAKER CORP. AND THE HOSPITAL CORP. OF AMERICA). HOWEVER, THE MAGNITUDE OF THE UPCOMING PROJECTS WARRANTS FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO U.S. FIRMS.

4. INTERESTED FIRMS MAY WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF RASHED SALAH AL-BAKR, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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